Boot a New OS: Setting Up Ubuntu on Your Computer

Written By: Chandler

PARTS:

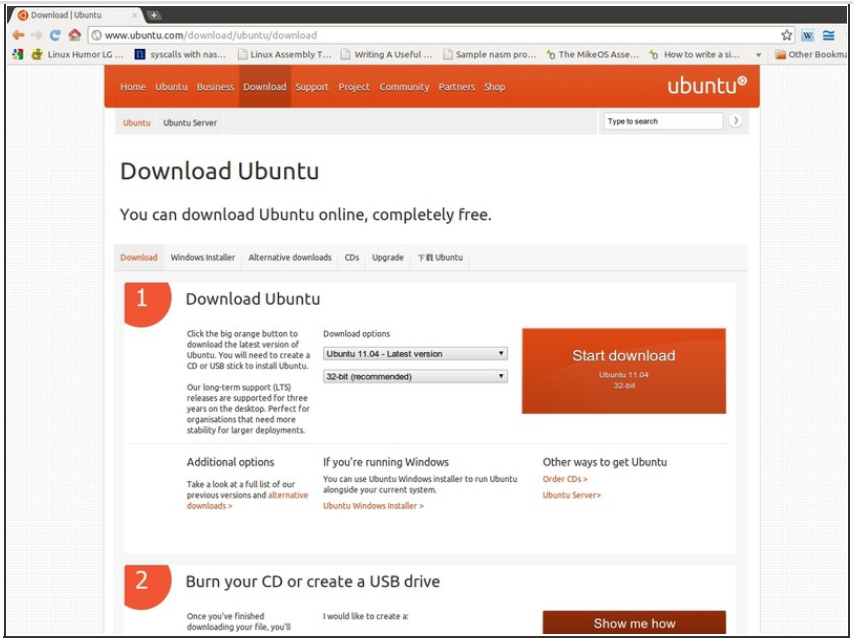
- CD-R (1)
- Computer running Windows XP, Vista, or Mac OS X (1)

SUMMARY

In this guide, I will teach you how to obtain a copy of Ubuntu, how to "boot" it on your computer, and how to install it as your operating system if you want. Ubuntu gives you the option of trying it without installing it, installing it alongside your current operating system, or making it your default. It is completely open-source and free, and you can even help work on it and improve it if you are a professional programmer and so inclined. In this tutorial, though, I will just teach you how to use a CD to try Ubuntu, and, if you want, install it. So, without further ado, let's begin!

WARNING: MAKE SURE NOT TO INSTALL UBUNTU UNLESS YOU HAVE DONE IT BEFORE OR ABSOLUTELY KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING! SEE WARNING BELOW IN STEP 4! ***ALSO, OTHER THINGS MAY GO AWRY, SO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE USING A COMPUTER THAT YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT OR ARE ABOUT TO THROW OUT!***

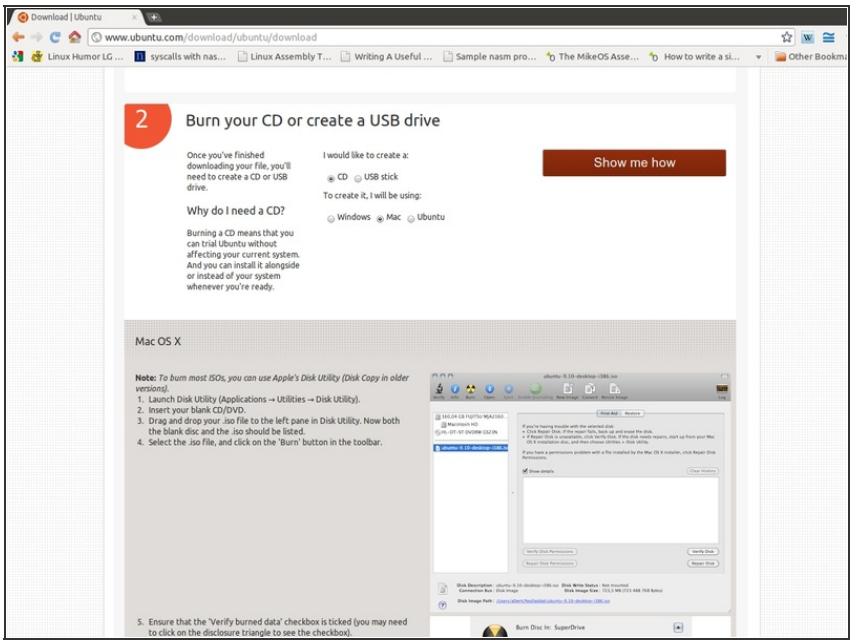
Step 1 — Boot a New OS: Setting Up Ubuntu on Your Computer



- Welcome to the wonderful world of Ubuntu! Once you have the materials listed above, just head on down to the Ubuntu homepage at ubuntu.com!
- By the way, once again, **make sure that you are using a computer that you don't care about or are about to throw away!!! If you have important files on the computer you are using, or you like the operating system you already have, don't install Ubuntu on that computer!!! Treat Ubuntu like a loaded gun: it isn't always harmful, but it possibly could destroy what is currently in front of it!** Ubuntu, however, is great for reviving a corrupted computer (with*out* important files). Just shut it down, boot into Ubuntu, install it, and voilà! Your computer is just like new.
- Once you are on Ubuntu's website, click on the huge "Get Ubuntu" button and click "Try it from a CD or USB stick." If any of the other options seem better for your needs, though, feel free to try those instead. (Remember, the option covered in this tutorial lets you install Ubuntu after you try it, too).
- Choose which version you would like to install, either the latest version or the long-term support

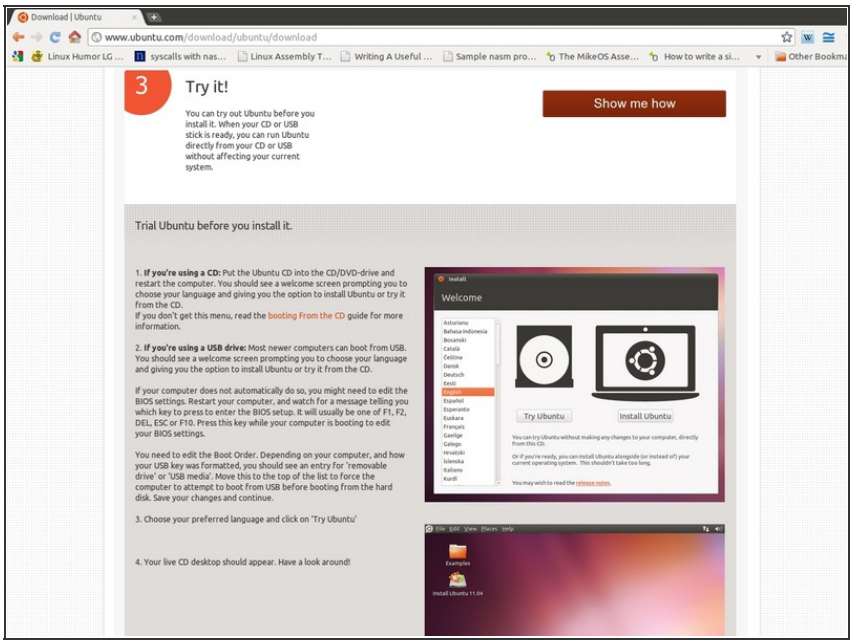
version, and choose 32-bit or 64-bit to match your computer's processor (go with 32 if you're unsure). Once you're done with that, click on "Start Download!"

Step 2



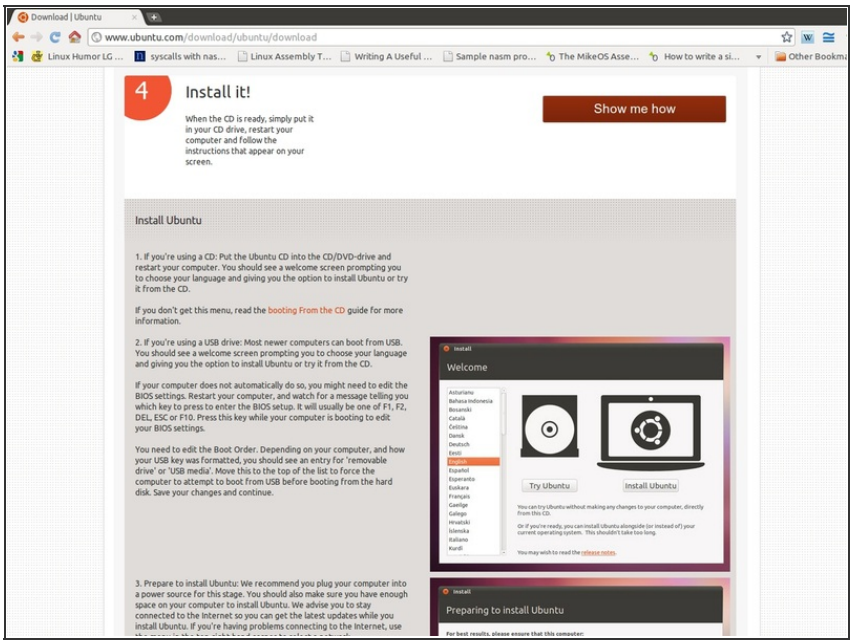
- Once the download is complete, let's go on to step two: burning the CD. The website shows how to do this just below the "Start Download" button. Click on CD (or USB stick if you choose to do it that way) and then click on the radio button ("bubble") for your operating system. Click "Show me how" and Ubuntu will show you how to get Ubuntu onto your device. Follow those instructions, and then go onto the next step.

Step 3



- When you have finished creating the CD or bootable USB stick, place your CD in the drive of the computer you are trying Ubuntu on, or your USB stick into a USB port, and turn on the computer. If Ubuntu doesn't automatically load, view the following options.
- On a PC, immediately after you turn your computer on, press the F12 key or whatever your computer says to for the "Boot Menu". Using the up, down, and Enter keys, choose to either boot from your CD or USB drive, depending on which you're using.
- On a Mac, hold the Option key when you are booting up, and then choose either to boot from your CD or USB drive, again, depending on which you chose.

Step 4



- Now for the fun part: go ahead and mess around on the live desktop! Have fun and explore Ubuntu!
- **BE CAREFUL:** do not choose to install Ubuntu unless you have backed-up all important data from your computer. **IT WILL ERASE ALL OF YOUR DATA!** Play around, and if you want to install Ubuntu, **make sure you know what you are doing! Disk partitions selected during installation WILL BE ERASED! Back-up EVERYTHING on your hard drive onto something else before installing!**
- The reason I chose Ubuntu was because my family had a corrupted file system on an old computer, and so I booted into Ubuntu, moved all of the files off the computer, and installed Ubuntu using a CD. I have found it a great operating system, and the best thing is: everything's free!

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